

Program D: TOPS Tuition

Program Authorization: R.S. 17:1961-1968

Program Authorization: Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Teacher Preparatory Loan Program - R.S. 17:3042.1, TOPS Opportunity Awards - Act 1375 of 1997 Regular Session, TOPS Honors Awards - Act 1375 of 1997 Regular Session, TOPS Performance Awards - Act 1375 of 1997 Regular Session, TOPS Technical Awards - Act 1375 of 1997 Regular Session, TOPS National Guard Book Fee - Act 165 of 1998.

Program Description

The mission of the TOPS Tuition Program is to financially assist any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in an eligible college or university to pursue an academic undergraduate degree, technical education certificate, diploma, or a non-academic undergraduate degree, and who meets the qualifications of the program.

The goal of the TOPS Tuition Program is to provide funds which are sufficient to cover the costs required to be paid for the coming academic year.

The TOPS Tuition Program includes the following activities:

1. TOPS Teacher Award - provides educational loans made in the amount of \$4,000 and \$6,000, dependent upon field of study. The program provides loan forgiveness to encourage individuals to teach in Louisiana.
2. TOPS Opportunity Award - replaced Tuition Assistance Program for Students (TAPS) effective 7/1/98, provides tuition for not more than 4 years or 8 semesters. Eligibility requirements include a 2.5 GPA, 16.5 core units and must obtain not less than the state ACT average.
3. TOPS Honors Award – provides tuition plus \$800 for not more than 4 years or 8 semesters. Eligibility requirements include a 3.5 GPA, 16.5 core units, and an ACT of 27.
4. TOPS Performance Award - replaces the Honor Scholarship Program effective 7/1/98, provides tuition plus \$400 for not more than 4 years or 8 semesters. Eligibility requirements include a 3.5 GPA, 16.5 core units, and an ACT of 23.
5. TOPS Technical Award - provides tuition for not more than 2 years. Eligibility requirements include a 2.5 GPA, 16.5 core units and an ACT of not less than 19.
6. TOPS National Guard Book Fee - provides \$150 per semester for the actual costs of books in lieu of tuition exemptions provided by R.S. 29:36.1 for persons serving in the Louisiana National Guard and who qualify for the Opportunity Award.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION FOR THE PROGRAM

	ACTUAL 2000-2001	ACT 12 2001-2002	EXISTING 2001-2002	CONTINUATION 2002-2003	RECOMMENDED 2002-2003	RECOMMENDED OVER/(UNDER) EXISTING
MEANS OF FINANCING:						
STATE GENERAL FUND (Direct)	\$90,269,039	\$100,761,368	\$100,761,368	\$94,969,219	\$89,631,882	(\$11,129,486)
STATE GENERAL FUND BY:						
Interagency Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fees & Self-gen. Revenues	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Dedications	622,786	1,400,000	1,400,000	4,500,000	4,313,478	2,913,478
Interim Emergency Board	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING	\$90,891,825	\$102,161,368	\$102,161,368	\$99,469,219	\$93,945,360	(\$8,216,008)
EXPENDITURES & REQUEST:						
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Compensation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Related Benefits	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operating Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional Services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Other Charges	90,891,825	102,161,368	102,161,368	99,469,219	93,945,360	(8,216,008)
Total Acq. & Major Repairs	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND REQUEST	\$90,891,825	\$102,161,368	\$102,161,368	\$99,469,219	\$93,945,360	(\$8,216,008)
AUTHORIZED FULL-TIME						
EQUIVALENTS: Classified	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unclassified	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

SOURCE OF FUNDING

This program is funded with State General Fund and Statutory Dedications from the TOPS Fund (created in La. R.S. 39.98.1.D from tobacco settlement proceeds) and the Teacher Preparation Loan Fund (created in La. R.S. 17.3042.8 from a one-time State General Fund appropriation). (Per R.S. 39:36B. (8), see table below for a listing of expenditures out of each statutory dedication fund.).

	ACTUAL	ACT 12	EXISTING	CONTINUATION	RECOMMENDED	RECOMMENDED
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2001-2002	2002-2003	2002-2003	OVER/(UNDER)
						EXISTING
Teacher Preparation Loan Fund	\$400,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	(\$100,000)
TOPS Fund	\$222,786	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	\$4,500,000	\$4,313,478	\$3,013,478

MAJOR FINANCIAL CHANGES

GENERAL FUND	TOTAL	T.O.	DESCRIPTION
\$100,761,368	\$102,161,368	0	ACT 12 FISCAL YEAR 2001-2002
			BA-7 TRANSACTIONS:
\$0	\$0	0	None
\$100,761,368	\$102,161,368	0	EXISTING OPERATING BUDGET - December 20, 2001
(\$8,116,008)	(\$8,216,008)	0	Other Adjustments - Projected Tuition Opportunity for Students and Teachers tuition cost adjustment for Fiscal Year 2003; does not provide funding for a 3% tuition increase for FY03 participants
(\$3,013,478)	\$0	0	Net Means of Financing Substitutions - Adjustment to replace State General Fund with the Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Fund pursuant to the securitization of the tobacco settlement proceeds remitted to this fund
\$89,631,882	\$93,945,360	0	TOTAL RECOMMENDED
(\$18,000,000)	(\$18,000,000)	0	LESS GOVERNOR'S SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS
\$71,631,882	\$75,945,360	0	BASE EXECUTIVE BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003
			SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINGENT UPON RENEWAL OF THE SUSPENSION OF THE \$25 PER CHILD EDUCATION INCOME TAX CREDIT:
\$18,000,000	\$18,000,000	0	A supplementary recommendation of \$18 million, all of which is State General Fund, is included in the Total Recommendation for this program. This supplementary recommendation represents 20.1% of the General Fund recommendation (\$89,631,882) and 19.2% of the total budget recommendation (\$93,945,360) for the TOPS Tuition Program. It represents partial funding for the TOPS program contingent upon the renewal of the suspension of the \$25 per child Education Income Tax Credit.
\$18,000,000	\$18,000,000	0	TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINGENT UPON RENEWAL OF THE SUSPENSION OF THE \$25 PER CHILD EDUCATION INCOME TAX CREDIT
\$89,631,882	\$93,945,360	0	GRAND TOTAL RECOMMENDED

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

This program does not have funding for Professional Services for Fiscal Year 2002-2003.

OTHER CHARGES

\$93,945,360 Tuition Opportunity Program for Students - funding for student awards

\$93,945,360 SUB-TOTAL OTHER CHARGES

Interagency Transfers:

This program does not have funding for Interagency Transfers for Fiscal Year 2002-2003.

\$0 SUB-TOTAL INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS

\$93,945,360 TOTAL OTHER CHARGES

ACQUISITIONS AND MAJOR REPAIRS

This program does not have funding for Acquisitions and Major Repairs for Fiscal Year 2002-2003.